

PREPARING FOR NATURAL AND INTENTIONAL DISASTERS

One of the key responsibilities of state agencies is to mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters on the people of California. Several agencies and offices within the Administration have specific emergency preparedness and response roles. Coordination the activities of these entities, at both budgetary and programmatic levels, is critical to improving California's ability to respond to an emergency.

The Administration has convened the Governor's Emergency Operations Executive Council (GEOEC), led by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS). Member agencies and departments include the California National Guard, Health and Human Services Agency, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Veterans' Affairs, California Highway Patrol, Department of Health Services (DHS) and Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), among others.

Executive Order S-04-06, issued on April 18, 2006, assigned the GEOEC three major tasks:

- Providing information to the Governor, Legislature, local agencies and public on pending emergency conditions that threaten public health and safety.
- Developing a consolidated set of budget, legislative and administrative recommendations to improve state prevention and response capabilities to deal with pending threats to public health and safety.
- Assisting in emergency preparedness management, response, recovery and mitigation efforts.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2006-07

The 2006 Budget Act included a \$214 million investment in the state's preparedness for emergency events. The execution of these contracts and receipt of these materials represents a major step forward in enhancing California's emergency response capability:

- After a series of bidder conferences, EMSA is analyzing bidder submissions and anticipates completing the \$18 million purchase of three mobile field hospitals in March 2007.
- Using \$55 million, the state has issued purchase orders for 3.8 million courses of antivirals. Of this amount, 3.7 million courses were purchased through the federal-state cost-sharing program, under which 25 percent of the cost is covered by the federal government. This is the full allocation to California under the federal-state cost-sharing program.
- Delivery of 50.5 million respirators, purchased for \$23.1 million, began in November 2006. Monthly shipments will be received through June 2007.
- On December 6, 2006, the Administration delivered a report to the Legislature providing an update on activities and proposing modifications to the materials to be included in the emergency caches for alternative care sites. This purchase is budgeted at \$76 million.
- The DHS has purchased 2,400 ventilators for \$30.6 million, which includes contractual requirements for the manufacturer to maintain and store the ventilators in working order for several years.

GAP ANALYSIS

The 2006 Budget Act requires the OES to contract for an independent gap analysis to "assess the strengths and vulnerabilities of California's emergency preparedness system for catastrophic events and the projected costs to address those vulnerabilities." The gap analysis will measure the state's baseline emergency response capability and evaluate and quantify areas where systems, resources and organizations can be improved. Contract negotiations for the gap analysis are underway, and the analysis is expected to result in budget proposals for 2008-09.